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Attn: Representative Bennett, Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Committee and Committee Members

Testimony on H 6108

Relating to Agriculture and Forestry- Right to Farm Act
Before the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Rhode Island Farm Bureau is an independent, non-governmental grassroots organization of farm families united to enhance and strengthen the lives of rural Americans, and to build strong, prosperous agricultural communities. Today our over 1000 members are not only large farmers and small farmers but also those engaged in agricultural industries, teachers of agriculture, and consumers.

Rhode Island Farm Bureau appreciates Representative Solomon introducing **H 6108** with the intention of allowing the keeping of laying hens in each municipality in our state. We have some concerns about this legislation reopening the Right to Farm Act, and the unintended consequences that could arise from this.

In addition, while the legislation would allow Individual cities and towns the authority to modify, all cities and towns should not have to apply the same restrictions across the board. Requirements such as a maximum of 10 chickens, no roosters, having birds contained sunset to sunrise, coop size, etc. can and will vary based on the lot sizes in various municipalities, particularly those with larger minimum lot sizes and in rural areas.

We look forward to working with Representative Solomon on the legislation.

Henry B. Wright III
President, RI Farm Bureau